
**JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY**

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2009

191(x) Barber Dime



**Obverse close-up of 15% off-centering effect on a planchet
from a "misaligned die" strike**

See page 8

Photo courtesy of Paul Kluth

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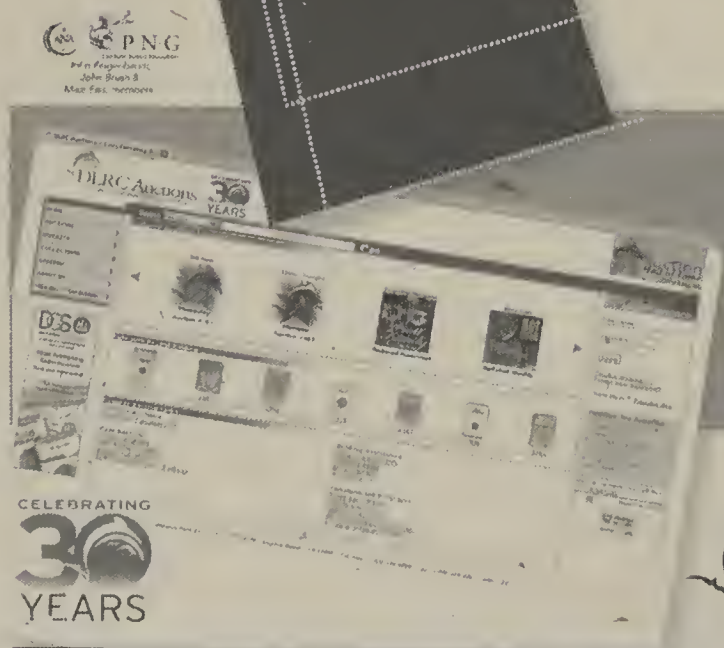


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JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

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BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Society will hold its traditional meeting as follows:

Saturday, August 8
9:00 to 11:30 AM
Los Angeles Convention Center
Room 511 B

Please attend, meet other Barber enthusiasts, show off a Barber item from your collection, or tell us something of interest (Barber-related or otherwise).

In the last issue, I was pleased to see Steve Hustad's article discussing "where do I obtain Barber coins." I had envisioned members simply replying with a short phrase (e.g., shows, local dealer, etc.) but Steve delivered much more than a brief remark. I will promise an article with my life history in numismatics (but focused and hopefully interesting). Are there others who might join Steve in writing a few sentences or paragraphs?

I enjoy mentioning Barber coins offered at auction and just days ago I received the Long Beach Heritage Auction catalogs. At the end of May, Heritage will have sold the Dr. Mark P. Miller Barber Dime Set. His set is a top PCGS Registry Set with coins previously held by Steven Duckor and Stewart Blay. The quality is outstanding as expected and his set is complete along with the 1893/2 and 1905 micro O varieties. You can "see" his set by using the Heritage website: www.HA.com and looking for US coin auction #1125.

I hope you all enjoy this issue of the *Journal*, the product of Eileen's thorough editorship.

I hope to see many members in Los Angeles.

Numismatic regards,
Phil Carrigan
philrph1892@es.com



BCCS EDITOR'S MESSAGE

I once collected Barber dimes and quarters, as well as Mercury dimes, though at the time I didn't know that's what they were. I was ten or eleven and had a small tin horse-shaped piggybank in which I kept any coin I found that was silver or that had the head of a lady on it. I especially liked "the lady with the wings." One day my two younger brothers, in their endless need for bubble gum and baseball cards, pulled off what I came to call the great McNulty bank robbery. Our parents made them pay me back and were bewildered by my insistence that I didn't want their money; I just wanted the coins with the ladies back. Well, of course that never happened. I never saw another lady until years later when I married a great guy who just happens to be a coin collector. Whenever I look at his Barber Dime and Quarter and Mercury Dime folders, I can't help but smile and wonder if one of my ladies did find her way back to me.

Now, some great news: DLRC has added *The Complete Guide to Barber Dimes* to its online library. This book has been out of print for some time and is all but impossible to find. A complete list of available online books is on page 10. Access is free! Here is the link: <http://www.stellacoinnews.com/>

In my stack of Barber-related material, I came across an article by R. W. Julian titled "Liberty Head Nickel an Improved Product" that appeared in the May 4, 2004 issue of *Numismatic News*. You will find it on page 16 in this *Journal*. Dave Harper, editor of *Numismatic News*, is absolutely great allowing me to reprint Barber-related articles. This one details a lot of the historical behind-the-scenes interaction and friction between the different individuals at the Mint, the Treasury and Congress in the shaping of what would become the Liberty Head Nickel.

Have a relaxing, safe, and enjoyable summer!

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS August 25th

Building a Barber Quarter Collection: My Recent Experience

By **Randy Guggenheimer**

I started collecting Barber Quarters about two and a half years ago. I had always pulled coins that interested me from pocket change such as Bicentennial Quarters, State Quarters and Wheat Cents, but I had never bought a collectible coin prior to late 2006. As a beginner coin collector, I educated myself by reading some books for beginner coin collectors like *Coin Collecting for Dummies* and *Coin Collecting 101*.

As I learned more about US coins, I became intrigued with the Barber Quarter series. I was attracted to the series because the time period, 1892-1916, was fascinating and the Quarters seemed to me to be challenging but not impossible to collect. Further, I could imagine my great-grandparents carrying these coins and using them for everyday purchases at the turn of the 20th Century.

Having made the decision to collect Barber Quarters, I set out to collect all 74 date/mintmark combinations including the 3 key dates. I preferred circulated coins that were actually used rather than MS coins. Did a famous person once own them? Someone I knew or was related to? When did the coins stop circulating and become collected? I chose to collect primarily VF and EF grades, although for budgetary reasons, I collected the 3 key date coins in lower grades. I used the *Redbook* and later David Lawrence's terrific book about Barber Quarters to assist me in understanding pricing, rarity and grading (relatively easy for this series, of course, thanks to "Liberty" and help me to appreciate the series. These books also gave me a sense of confidence that I knew what I was doing.

I first purchased Barber Quarters at a local coin show in October 2006. I brought a magnifying glass and the *Redbook* and cautiously bought four raw Barber Quarters that day. They were nice coins and well-priced in retrospect. A month later, I purchased a coin at a Teletrade auction over the Internet. This was probably the biggest bargain of any coin that I have bought to date.

My collection took 25 months overall to complete, somewhat longer than

I had expected. The guidebooks indicate that this can take a year or more. The two last coins that I bought to complete my collection were the 1892-S and 1893-S Quarters. This is in part because these are relatively rare, but they also were more expensive than I had expected, so I had declined to buy them earlier. The 1909-O and 1911-D coins are similarly difficult to find even in F at a reasonable price.

Of the 74 date/mintmark combinations, I bought the majority of coins (45) at coin shows, which I prefer because I can examine the coins in person. I attended 10 coin shows in this period, including one national ANA show. I purchased a further 15 coins from stores over the Internet through their websites. I also purchased 14 of the coins, including the 3 key dates, through auctions on the Internet. I did not purchase any of the coins at a dealer's store in person. Except for the coins purchased in Internet auctions, most of which are slabbed, all of the coins are in raw form.

Collecting the Barber Quarters has proven to be very rewarding. Finding the right coin at the right price can be difficult in this series. Searching dealers' catalogues and websites as well as attending the coin shows gave me a sense of which coins were available and what might be a reasonable price. I am pleased to have completed the set, although I am already searching for a few nicer-looking coins to upgrade certain dates and mintmarks. I've learned that with collecting Barber Quarters you are never finished.



BCCS “blind” Email List

The BCCS web service has the capability to send messages using a “Blind Carbon Copy” setting, which means everyone on the list gets the email, but nobody's email address is displayed. The advantages to having such a list include the ability to post last-minute BCCS get-togethers at regional shows and other types of Society communications, if needed, without having to wait for the next issue of the *Journal*. It is completely voluntary, and is open to members only. If you wish to be on this list, please send an email to: BCCS@BarberCoins.org and your name will be added. Your information will not be disclosed to anyone, and you will only receive email regarding BCCS business from the BCCS email account.

View From the Rim

By Pul Kluth

“Believe It or Knot”

Tucked away in a collection that has been in a bank vault for over 25 years is this interesting Barber Dime that has recently surfaced after all these years. What type of error coin do you think it is?



Dated 191(x)-P, this dime is certainly a major “off-center” strike? Off-center struck Barber Dimes are certainly more common than off-center Barber Quarters and Halves by a long stretch, but none the less they are still relatively scarce. Off-centers measuring 3-5% are the strikes most typically found (when found on Barber coinage), but this one happens to measure 15% off-center at the 5 o’clock position (also designated at K-5) using a special off-center measuring gauge developed years ago. San Francisco minted Barber errors are typically rarer than their –P and –D Mint counterparts. This coin grades in the Fine range.

Believe it or knot?

After scrutinizing the last numeral closely, the 191(x) date is believed to be 1913.



Shown below is the reverse of the 191(3)-P off-center Barber Dime pictured on the previous page.



Wow! What are you talking about? This is no off-center!

Is this the same coin?

This is got to be the back side of a normal circulated Barber Dime!

What you see *is* the actual reverse of this same Barber Dime. This happens to be a “misaligned die” error, a *huge* misaligned die for that fact, and not a photo switch for the coin being described. At the time of striking, the hammer die was out of vertical alignment with its opposite die counterpart. This caused the obverse to be off-center and the reverse normal struck as you would expect to see it.

Misaligned dies are commonly found (at least for errors) on recent era U.S. coins like Lincoln Cents, Jefferson Nickels, Roosevelt Dimes, Washington Quarters and Kennedy Halves. They are also seen on Large Cents and Indian Head Cents occasionally. But the degree of off-center (misalignment) is usually only about 3 to 7 degrees. Misaligned dies of greater than 10 degrees start to get much harder to find and are especially neat to look at given one side of the coin is normal struck and the other side is so off-center. Misaligned dies are always a weird kind of an odd error. Needless to say, at 15% this coin is probably one of the largest degree misaligned die struck errors known to exist in any U.S. series or denomination, and a Barber to "believe it or knot."



Barber Bits

Stella Coin News adds Barber Dime Book to its online library

StellaCoinNews.com announced its latest online reference book: *The Complete Guide to Barber Dimes*. Published in 1991 by late author, David Lawrence, this ground-breaking reference is now available to all collectors free of charge for their personal use. This book has been out of print for some time. In it, you will find an in-depth analysis and die variety study on this series, as well as relative rarity rankings. The website encourages added comments and updated information on this series. Access is free! Here is the link: <http://www.stellacoinnews.com/>

The following reference books are now available on the SCN web site to all users:

- *The Complete Guide to Buffalo Nickels, 3rd Edition* by David Lange
- *The Complete Guide to Mercury Dimes* by David Lange
- *The Complete Guide to Walking Liberty Half Dollars* by Bruce Fox
- *Tales from the Bourse* by David Lawrence Feigenbaum
- *The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars* by Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert
- *The Complete Guide to Washington Quarters* by John Feigenbaum
- *The Complete Guide to Franklin Half Dollars* by Rick Tomaska

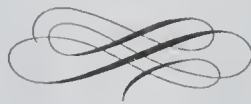
Coming soon:

- *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters*
- *The Complete Guide to Barber Halves*
- *The Complete Guide to Certified Barber Coinage*
- *Hobo Nickel Book*

Barber Bits

Just an observation on the 1897-S quarter. I think this quarter is as scarce as the 96-S. If not, why is it that all national dealers have 96-S's for sale, but none seem to have a single 1897-S? I think to find a problem-free VF-XF would be quite a feat. Am I alone on this observation, or do others feel this way also? I think there is some history on this coin that I am not aware of and would love to read about it. I believe I read somewhere that this coin largely ended up in the Philippines for some reason. Is anyone aware of this, or was anything ever written about this coin in previous Journals? Membership e-mail feedback would be appreciated. Please address to: lcherny2009@gmail.com

Larry Cherny



Editor's note: Infrequently Phil, John and I receive emails from people seeking information about a coin in their possession. Following are three of them. If you can provide more information, email it to one of us and it will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

I have a copper coin or medal with the Washington bust on one side and Lincoln on the other. The coin is 3mm thick at the rim with a very high relief at the busts. It's 18mm in diameter, with no date or lettering at all. Both sides have the letter "B" at the lower neck as all my other Barber coins. I'm sending pictures... I'll send others if you think that I have a rare Barber coin or medal. I'd like to know what this is. It's not a Betts or Baker; the quality and detail are much better. Please respond.



Phil's response: *I don't have an answer for you on this. Try sending your message and photos to David Alexander at Stack's. He is an acknowledged expert on medals.*



Sorry to bug you, but I have a 1891 Barber Dime. I have researched and found that they did not start making them until 1892. I would believe it to be a Pattern as I have been told, although that is all the info I have. Would you know any more info/value? I have attached some photos, not the best.



Phil's response: *Yes, the 1891 Barber Dime is a pattern. I just checked the Polack pattern reference where he states the piece is R8 (2--3 pieces known with the Smithsonian holding two). I am sure there are only two and they were sent to the national coin collection or its predecessor when minted, thus no sale info.*

Your coin is very worn (I can't see the date). I believe it is highly unlikely to be a genuine 1891 dime as this would have been a 'special' coin held as such. Yours may be altered (for fun?). Difficult to read its date.

BCCS Meeting at the ANA Convention

Saturday, August 8

9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Los Angeles Convention Center

Room 511 B

I have a 1901 Barber Quarter that has an inscription on the back. I know it is from 1901 since it has been passed down in my family and the inscription indicates so. But I'm wondering how it could be one-sided and have this 100 year old inscription in the first place? The inscription reads: This the the First Quarter used to turn on Gas in a New York Prepayment Attachment Inventor Wm. T Drew

From what I have been told by my uncles who are now in their 80s, my great-great-grandfather invented a device that went into all New York City apartments at the turn of the century and that he later sold the patent to Con Edison here in New York. What I'm wondering is what you think the value of this is? It is a Barber on the front but has this inscription on the back instead of the eagle which I understand is on a true Barber. Can you give me any insight? Thanks.

Eileen's response: *...one of our society members, John Frost, told of a woman who contacted him about a Barber dime, the reverse of which was engraved with what looked like RCR overlapping and beautifully done. He told her it sounded like a Love Token. He said sometimes one side of a coin was re-engraved with initials, or sometimes an emblem or coat of arms. He had once seen a Barber Dime that had the entire Lord's Prayer engraved on a scroll on the back.*



2008 BCCS Member Questionnaire Responses

88 members completed the questionnaire mailed in December. Here are their responses.

1. How long have you collected numismatic items?

1-9 years	3 members
10-19 years	7 members
20-29 years	11 members
20+ years	2 members
30-39 years	10 members
30+ years	1 member
40-49 years	24 members
40+ years	2 members
50-59 years	22 members
50+ years	4 members
60+ years	2 members

2. Please identify what area you collect and whether this is a major or minor interest:

	<u>Major interest</u>	<u>Minor interest</u>
U.S. coins	85 members	3 members
U.S. paper	6 members	18 members
U.S. tokens & other	8 members	23 members
Currency	4 members	11 members
Foreign	2 members	1 member
Ancients	1 member	
Numismatic literature	1 member	

3. If U.S. coins are your major collecting interest, what series are represented?
(Editor's note: I may/may not have inadvertently omitted something.)

Barber 10c, 25c, 50c, Buffalo Nickels, Capped Bust Halves, Copper Two-Cents, Early Dollars (1795-1803), Eisenhower Dollars, Flying Eagles Cents, Franklin Halves, Half Cents, Indian Head Cents, Jefferson Nickels, Kennedy Halves, Large Cents, Lincoln Cents, Mercury Dimes, Mint Sets, Modern Commemoratives, Morgan and Peace Silver Dollars, Presidential Dollars, Proof Sets, Roosevelt Dimes, Sacajewa Dollars, Seated 10c, 25c and 50c, Saint-Gaudens \$20, Shield Nickels, Silver Commemoratives, Silver Eagles, Standing Liberty Quarters, State Quarters, Susan B. Anthony Dollars, Three-Cent Nickels, Trade Dollars, Type Sets, Walking Liberty Halves, Washington Quarters

4. Where do you obtain items for your major collecting interest?

- Local dealer - 55 members
- National dealer - 55 members
- Mail order - 40 members
- cBay - 33 members
- National auction - 29 members
- Local auction/bid board - 14 members
- Trades - 7 members
- Other - coin shows - 21 members
 - wholesalers - 1 member
 - U.S. Mint - 2 members
 - coin clubs - 2 members
 - international dealer - 1 member

Buddy Ebsen and the 1894-S Dime

By John Frost

An interesting tidbit from the website and email box

One of our members asked me if the late Buddy Ebsen was ever an owner of one of the 1894-S dimes. The reason he asked was, "on an episode of the Beverly Hillbillies I saw recently, Mr. Drysdale tried to interest Jed Clampett in coin collecting and brought over some collections to show him." Apparently, in that episode they cut to a brief closeup of a Barber Dime set. The member added, "And he specifically mentioned the 1894-S being worth \$12,000.00 so I thought Buddy might have owned one and I became curious." Not an impossibility, because he was, in fact, a big coin collector.

I investigated a bit and looked at the auction archives from when the Buddy Ebsen collections were auctioned off and there was no 1894-S present. Lots of key coins, with lots of early Bust and some Seated coins, but not many Barbers and not that particular date. So I thought I was fairly sure he never owned one. After all, if there was one in the collection, it had to be listed as one of the auction highlights.

Then it dawned on me that the coin might be one of the two known circulated examples, as apparently the set shown on the TV show was circulated. I personally know the coin dealer who handled the sale of the so-called "Ice Cream Specimen" of the 1894-S, grading Good 4, back in the early 1980s. Over breakfast at FUN, I mentioned the email and asked him, since he had once handled that specific coin, whether he knew if Buddy Ebsen ever owned the 1894-S. He smiled, looked at his breakfast, and casually, after a long pause, answered "Yep." In fact, he acquired the Buddy Ebsen coin and handled its sale to another collector. That's why the great Buddy Ebsen auction did not contain that coin -- he had sold it a couple of decades earlier.

Now you know. Buddy Ebsen was once one of the few lucky owners of an 1894-S Barber Dime.

So, if you ever watch the Beverly Hillbillies and see an episode with a Barber Dime set, be sure to DVR or TiVo it and take a look. I haven't seen the show, but maybe one day I'll take a look.

Liberty Head Nickel an Improved Product

By R. W. Julian

In 1866, as a result of the coin shortage caused by the Civil War, Congress authorized the striking of a copper-nickel five-cent piece, later known as the "nickel." The Shield Nickel, as the first design is called, was instantly popular, with tens of millions of pieces struck by 1870 alone.

While coinage had been extremely heavy during the first few years of its life, fewer Shield Nickels were struck after 1870 and none at all in 1877 and 1878 (except for proofs) due to an abundance of such coins in daily use. Minting resumed in a small way in 1879, but these coins were mainly meant for collectors of small means and those who wished to give presents to children on special occasions.

In March 1879, A. Loudon Snowden was appointed superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint. The special low coinages of the nickel for 1879-1880 were entirely due to him. He believed that the numismatist without too much money ought to be able to obtain uncirculated coins and not have to buy proofs. The Mint Bureau and Treasury agreed to this request, and Snowden then made the limited coinage available.

In 1881 Snowden became seriously interested in improving the appearance of our minor coins. He ordered Chief Engraver Charles E. Barber to prepare a set of patterns with similar designs, except for the value, on each. The head placed on the pattern nickel (and the other two coins as well) was none other than the Liberty head later adopted for the five-cent piece in 1883.

Barber worked on the designs in 1881 and a fair amount of progress was made. Dies were made and a few patterns of each denomination were struck for examination by officials, including Mint Director Horatio Buehard. All three coins were made of the copper-nickel alloy, as it was Snowden's plan to make the cent from the same metal as the three-cent and five-cent pieces.

The superintendent also decided that the diameter of the nickel should be

increased when and if the new design took effect. The Shield Nickel had a diameter of about 20.5mm while Snowden believed that the new diameter should be at least 21mm. The idea was to make the surface of the coin slightly larger.

It was the opinion of the superintendent, based on practical experience as chief coiner in the 1860s and 1870s, that a larger diameter would make the pieces easier to strike. This in turn would hold down the enormous number of dies being used for the nickel coinage. In 1866 the average number made from a pair of dies was perhaps under 10,000 and not that much over 20,000 in the early 1870s. (The rays had been removed from the reverse in early 1867 in an effort to increase die life.)

After some experimentation by the current coiner, Oliver Bosbyshell, it was decided that the diameter should be just a bit over 21mm, 21.2mm to be exact. This diameter is still being used at the present time.

During 1882, Chief Engraver Charles Barber continued his efforts at providing Snowden with the best possible design for the five-cent coin but by now plans for a redesigned one-cent and three-cent coin had been shelved. There are no patterns for the five-cent denomination prepared by George Morgan, assistant engraver since 1876, because one of his designs had already been accepted for regular coinage: the dollar of 1878-1921. There were no regular issues of coin, however, then being struck which were designed by Barber.

Most of the Barber patterns for the nickel were apparently produced in the latter part of 1882, although some work could have been done earlier in the year. Basically, the pattern consisted of a Liberty head (the same as used in 1881) on the obverse with the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. On the reverse is the Roman numeral V within an ornate wreath of wheat and cotton. One variety has no reverse legend, but the others have either IN GOD WE TRUST or E PLURIBUS UNUM.

In December 1882, Snowden finally made up his mind for the design of the new five-cent piece. Known today as Judd 1684, it had UNITED STATES OF AMERICA on the obverse and E PLURIBUS UNUM on the reverse. On December 15th he sent twenty-five pieces of the new design in the regular copper-nickel alloy to Director Burchard in Washington for distribution within the Mint Bureau and for transmission to Treasury officials.

As is still true today, the Treasury secretary in 1881 was empowered by law to choose coin designs. Charles J. Folger, who had been appointed by President James Garfield, took his duties very seriously and actually read the law to

make certain that all was proper.

To his surprise, Folger discovered that the pattern nickel submitted by Snowden did not meet the stipulations of the 1873 Mint law. In particular, the reverse had to contain the mark of value, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and E PLURIBUS UNUM. The motto IN GOD WE TRUST was optional depending upon the space available; for this reason Snowden had not put it on the pattern.

It was soon obvious that neither Snowden nor Barber had bothered to read the 1873 Mint law, in particular Section 18, which spelled out the legal requirements. Folger informed Burchard of the error and told him to have it corrected. Folger did note, however, that the overall design was very good excepting the placement of the legends.

Snowden was less than pleased by the response from Washington, deciding that he was right. On December 20th he replied at length with one of the stranger arguments ever presented to the Treasury. It seemed, according to Snowden, that the original draft of the 1873 coinage act had not specified which side of the coin was to receive the appropriate legends and mottoes. Snowden was thus reasoning that the law was in error and not his pattern coin. Congress had no business in changing draft legislation!

The letter went on to produce an equally odd reason as to why the law should just be ignored. It seems that when the new silver dollar design by George Morgan was under consideration in January 1878, the then-Director of the Mint, Henry R. Linderman, asked Snowden for his aid in improving the design, both artistically and technically. Snowden worked closely with Morgan in the preparation of the revised dollar dies, and many of the suggestions were adopted into the final product. The Morgan Dollar, however, was technically illegal under the 1873 act as E PLURIBUS UNUM was on the obverse where it did not belong.

Director Linderman, who wished to keep the Morgan design intact, therefore asked Snowden for his opinion as to whether the 1873 law had been violated. The latter, having worked closely with Morgan, certainly could be depended upon for an "impartial" verdict! Snowden unhesitatingly agreed with Linderman that the law did not apply to this coin, because to comply would ruin the artistic effect, and that could not be allowed to happen. Treasury Secretary John Sherman then agreed as well.

The December 20th letter to Washington got nowhere as the Treasury secretary did not think Snowden's reasoning had any merit. At Folger's command, Director Burchard notified the Philadelphia officials that the lettering would have

to appear on the side directed by law and there would be no exception made for any reason.

Having met his match, Snowden had little choice now except to gracefully accept defeat and order Barber to create dies that adhered to the law. By Dec. 23rd, Barber was doing just that, and within a matter of days the work had been completed to Snowden's satisfaction. One rather noticeable change was the addition of thirteen stars to the obverse where E PLURIBUS UNUM had formerly been.

The most interesting feature, in hindsight, was the fact that the word CENTS did not appear on the coin. It did not appear on the three-cent copper-nickel coin first struck in 1865 and no one thought it was necessary there either.

Samples of the revised design, still using the date 1882, were sent to Washington on January 4, 1883. This time there were no problems and Folger quickly gave his assent for coinage to begin with the new Liberty Head design. Snowden replied that striking would begin as soon as the proper hubs and working dies had been prepared. All was in readiness by the end of January. Shield Nickels were coined in the meantime as there was an ongoing public demand for this denomination.

On February 1st, full-scale mintage commenced, and within a few days the new coins had reached the public. It was not long, however, before a feeling of unease set in at the Mint. The public acceptance of the new design had been very good and, in some quarters, a bit too good. In particular, a handful of "sharpers" had gold-plated the new nickels and then reeded the edges, giving them a superficial appearance of gold half eagles. They were then passed to unsuspecting storekeepers and bartenders. Suddenly, angry letters to government officials and newspapers demanded that this Terrible Fraud be nipped in the bud.

The most notorious of the individuals said to be passing the plated coins was a deaf-mute named Josh Tatum. The truth is, however, that the problem was really minor, especially after newspapers had published lengthy accounts of massive wrongdoing, complete with drawings of the new coin.

Fearing a political backlash, the government caved in to the criticism. Treasury Secretary Folger, who no doubt wished that he would never have to pass on a coinage design again, made it clear to the Mint that the corrections would be done quickly. By about February 20th, Barber was at work on the new look.

At first the engraver prepared a reverse with the word CENTS on a scroll across the Roman numeral V. This was under consideration for a short time but

finally rejected without being sent on to Washington. (Other patterns, some actually struck, were considered but also rejected as being of little merit.) Someone finally came up with the idea in which E PLURIBUS UNUM was put above the V in small letters and the word CENTS placed at the bottom. On March 13th, two pattern pieces with the latter idea were sent to Washington and quickly approved.

It was now the turn of coin collectors to cause problems for Snowden. Once the change of design became known, speculators bought up all of the proof Shield Nickels on hand at the Mint. Once this was done, dealers began to scalp the coins for increasingly higher prices. To thwart this, Snowden asked permission to sell all three designs of the 1883 nickel in proof for the rest of the year, if necessary, to put an end to the speculation and hoarding. The request was granted, much to the annoyance of the profiteers.

In 1884 well-known painter Eastman Johnson suggested some special one-cent and five-cent patterns with a hole in the middle. Apparently there was enough interest to produce these in two different years. Nothing came of them, and they are now but pleasant reminders of a bygone age. There were also some 1896 pattern nickels which are of no particular merit, as well as some essays by Barber in 1909 and 1910, but these were of little artistic value either.

Coinage continued at a heavy pace throughout the rest of 1883 and well into 1885. However, in March 1885, the Treasury suspended nickel coinage because large numbers were flowing into the subtreasuries and very few pieces leaving. This was the same situation as had prevailed from 1876 through 1881. For this reason, the 1885 nickel is the most difficult date of this series to acquire. Coinage resumed in late 1886.

Coinages of 1887 through 1911 are of little collector interest, except in cases such as 1894, when the number struck was smaller. After 1900, the coinage began to grow and by 1911 had reached nearly 40 million. It began to be clear to mint officials that Denver and San Francisco would have to begin coining nickels.

In early 1912, Denver made preparations for the first striking of copper-nickel five-cent pieces outside of the Philadelphia Mint. On February 5, 1912, the Denver coiner made the first delivery - 20,000 pieces - of nickels made in that institution. The San Francisco Mint struck only 238,000 pieces, all in late December 1912, creating an instantly scarce coin.

The most famous date, 1913, was not regularly struck and in fact was made clandestinely in December 1912. When the decision had been reached, in

mid-December, to coin only the new Buffalo Nickel in 1913, this meant that the Liberty Head dies on hand would soon be destroyed. A pair of proof dies was at Philadelphia and ten pairs of dies had been sent to San Francisco, but the latter were returned to Philadelphia by December 23rd.

Someone decided that it would be nice to have a few 1913 Liberty Head Nickels for future sale to collectors. Unfortunately, Mint officials would have never permitted this to happen, so no one asked for permission. At some time close to Christmas 1912, two or three conspirators were able to get the dies for a short time and struck five pieces.

The perpetrators then smuggled the coins out of the Mint. The striking is sometimes ascribed to Samuel W. Brown, a one-time storekeeper at the Mint, but he almost certainly had help in their production. He was, however, the person responsible for the spurious ad in the December 1919 *The Numismatist* offering to buy 1913 Liberty Head Nickels for \$500 each. He soon sold the five pieces to a dealer and the rest is history except for the spectacular reappearance of the long-missing fifth specimen during the 2003 ANA Convention.



Another response to the 2007 survey question “What are your three favorite Barbers?”

Tom Flenniken:

Half Dollars -

R6 1896-D, 1901-S, 1904-S - Favorite mint state because they are the rarest at that grade. All this according to David Lawrence's latest book for mint state. BCCS Rarity Rating - preliminary survey results: Summer '98, Vol. 9, No. 2 (Also note there is no longer #1 rating in XF/AU grade.)

R6 1897-O, 1897-S, Dropped from R6 to R5 1904-S This was an article that appeared in BCCS Journal in '98 I think. I don't agree for '04-S as I believe it to be still an AU coin very, very difficult to obtain in XF or AU. (Mine is a raw AU-50 from David Lawrence.)

I have worked on this set going on ten years and it is an AU and Mint State set, but mostly AU. Majority purchased from David Lawrence. I have 65 of the 73 coins in the set; missing is an '02-P, '05-O, '06-P, '06-D, '06-O, '07-D, '14-S, and '15-S. The two most difficult to get are the '05-O and '06-O.

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1. Promotes the writing and sharing of information on Barber coins to an organization of individuals who are interested in increasing their knowledge of the series; for Society purposes, Barber coins are defined as primarily U.S. dimes, quarters and half dollars designed by Charles E. Barber, and minted from 1892 to 1916.
2. Gives Barber hobbyists an opportunity to contact other collectors with similar numismatic interests.
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4. Through group purchasing power, can offer its members discounts on numismatic materials relating especially to the collecting of Barber coins.
5. Provides members a means to trade their Barbers with other members, in an effort to upgrade or complete their collection.
6. Effectively lobbies numismatic shows and events to provide Barber exhibits and space for all Barber dealers to sell their merchandise.
7. Promotes the collecting of Barbers and the hobby in general to today's youngsters.
8. Offers benefit to all Barber collectors, whether they collect Barber dimes, quarters or halves, graded AG or MS65+.
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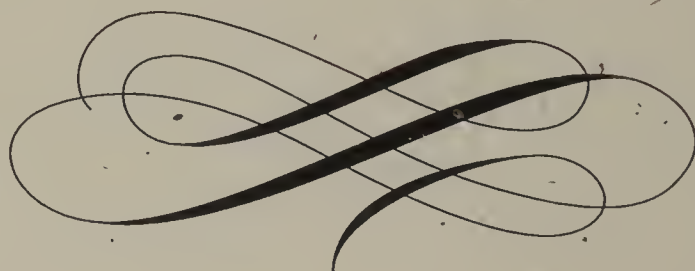
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